



THE H. V. KALTENBORN COLLECTION

*Mass Communications History Center  
of  
The State Historical Society of Wisconsin*

The Mass Communications History Center, established in Madison in 1955 by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is a growing collection of historical source materials relating to the development of mass communications and its role in American history. Represented in the Center are the areas of radio, television, the press, advertising, public relations, theatre, and cinema. The collection includes the personal and professional papers of leaders in mass communications and records concerning the history of the various media. Among the types of material deposited with the Center are original radio and television scripts, unpublished news dispatches, memoranda, war diaries, journals, fan mail, personal and business correspondence, account records from advertising and public relations firms, theatre production records, tapes, discs, cartoons, and photographs. The Mass Communications History Center is also the depository for the archives of the National Broadcasting Company.

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# THE H.V.KALTENBORN COLLECTION

*This booklet is designed to apprise teachers, research students, writers of articles or books on broadcasting, and other interested individuals of the existence of this unique collection of material dealing with the early history of broadcasting and the personal career and experiences of the Dean of Radio News Analysts.*

MASS COMMUNICATIONS HISTORY CENTER  
OF  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, 1961



*H. V. Kaltenborn at work in his study (1958) .*

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## H. V. KALTENBORN

When H. V. Kaltenborn made his first radio broadcast in 1921 he brought to it an experience of more than a quarter century in newspaper reporting. Born in Milwaukee in 1878, the son of Rudolph and Betty (Wessels) von Kaltenborn, he had spent the latter part of his boyhood in the little northern Wisconsin lumber town of Merrill, where for some time he worked for the local weekly *Merrill Advocate*. Volunteer service in the Spanish-American War of 1898 introduced him to the outside world. Eager to extend that knowledge he set out for New York City and then by cattle boat to Paris and the 1900 World's Fair.

On his return to New York, the young man found a job with the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and in the following years managed to obtain a college education, graduating from Harvard with an honors degree. Still with the *Eagle*, he covered government affairs in Washington and the League of Nations meetings in Geneva and conducted travel tours to Europe, South America, Alaska and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. The rise of the United States to dominance at the end of World War I found Kaltenborn well equipped to interpret that role at home and abroad. He became a world traveler and an accomplished linguist, interviewing in the next decades scores of leaders including such notables as Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Chiang Kai-shek, Marshal Tito, the Emperor of Japan, King Alfonso of Spain, Mahatma Gandhi, Pope Pius XII, and Syngman Rhee.

The vast amount of information he gathered furnished bases for newspaper reports, numerous magazine articles and books, and more particularly, for oral delivery over that rising medium of communication, the radio. Beginning on April 4, 1922, he pioneered in first weekly, then daily, radio talks on current events. Actually these talks were spoken editorials, an innovation which at first brought occasional demands to newspaper, radio station and sponsor for his dismissal. Eventually broadcasting became for the speaker a full-time occupation and won him the title, "Dean of American Radio Commentators."

In 1930 he left the *Eagle* and signed a contract with the newly organized Columbia Broadcasting System for a regular weekly news commentary, as well as to cover special events of national or inter-

national significance. In that capacity he analyzed the economic difficulties that multiplied after the Wall Street crash of 1929, the election of 1932, the London Conference of 1933, the developments of the New Deal, and the growing international tensions. To his anxious and bewildered countrymen Kaltenborn's crisp, clear, authoritative comments on complex situations brought reassurance and conviction, and "fans" tuned their receivers "to hear what Kaltenborn says." Some repudiated his stands, some were more frustrated than instructed, but whether approving, unconvinced, or protesting, uncounted numbers wrote their reactions to the reports coming over the air waves. These unsolicited comments, covering four decades, have been preserved. They are now an important part of the Kaltenborn collection.



*H. V. Kaltenborn as a volunteer in the Spanish-American War (1898)*

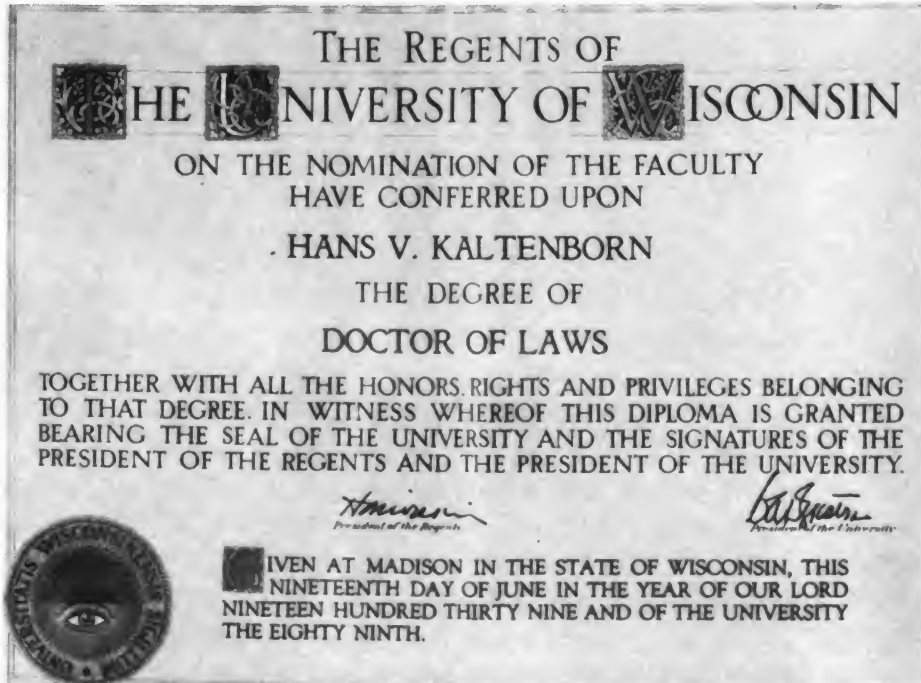
As Europe moved towards war, Kaltenborn's experience in reporting, meeting world leaders, and analyzing world events proved invaluable. In 1936, from a contrived radio connection set upon a French farm between a haystack and a cornfield, he relayed to his distant listeners the details of the bloody battle of Irun in the Spanish Civil War, the first actual battlefield broadcast in radio history. This won him one of the many citations and awards he has received for his radio work. Two years later the peace of the world hung in precarious balance in Munich. For eighteen days running, from September 12 to 29, Kaltenborn ate and slept in his CBS studio in New York. During this time he gave eighty-five broadcasts, some of them over complex overseas hookups, all of them extemporized under tremendous pressure. The American people became accustomed to his voice, his slightly Harvard accent, and his manner of delivery. His mail increased a hundredfold. Listeners wrote to beg that he talk on certain subjects, that he clarify situations, that he advise on vital matters.

World War II brought Kaltenborn's busiest years. He did not hesitate to criticize national defense policies. He denounced strikes and





*H. V. K. interviews one of Generalissimo Franco's commanders during the siege of Madrid (1936)*



*Doctor of Laws Degree conferred upon H. V. Kaltenborn by the University of Wisconsin (1939)*



*Kaltenborn chatting with the late Wendell Willkie (1940)*

condemned the tactics of headstrong labor leaders. He urged sacrifices from the American people and championed the drive for scrap metal and rubber. He called for "People's Lobbies" to counteract private interest groups allegedly blocking defense efforts. He opposed the army pilot training policy because of its high accident toll and became a firm believer in an army small enough to leave sufficient numbers of men in the factories and on the farm. He assisted European refugees to reach a haven in the United States and championed the cause of displaced Japanese-Americans from the West Coast. He visited all the battle fronts, east and west.

Letters poured in from listeners, praising, questioning, protesting, even threatening. His reply to all was that his broadcasts helped crystallize public opinion and so aided the President and the war effort. Later, writing appreciatively of the freedom of thought and expression allowed in America, he declared: "Throughout both world wars I was able to comment, editorialize, and criticize our activities at home and abroad . . . . Yet, I have never been put under any political pressure from Washington, even though our radio stations operate under government licenses. Let no one say that we do not have a free radio as we have a free press."



All through the war and the ensuing peace he continued to broadcast, after 1939 over the National Broadcasting Company network. Long before this his leadership in the world of news analysis had been recognized by his fellow craftsmen, and in 1942 he led them in establishing the Association of Radio News Analysts, and as the association's representative presented a vigorous protest against a public campaign to curb expressions of opinion by radio commentators. On the occasion of his twentieth anniversary as a radio commentator, April 4, 1942, he founded the Broadcast Pioneers which has expanded into an important national organization.

The growing awareness of the importance of mass communications in the modern world brought even wider recognition of the value of Kaltenborn's contributions. Honors came from universities, civic organizations, journalistic and radio groups, the United States government. Demands continued for his services for special occasions, particularly during political campaigns. He took time to write reminiscent books and to enjoy friends and family life. He established the Kaltenborn Foundation to assist promising young workers in press, radio and television. Asserting that "the second half of the twentieth century promises as many marvels as the first half," he in-



*H. V. K. touring the front lines at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, with Major General Robert S. Beightler, Brigadier General William H. Arnold, and Sergeant Neil Hutchinson (1943)*



*Kaltenborn as a war correspondent in Seoul, Korea (1951)*

troduced a television program, "It Seems Like Yesterday," with his son Rolf. At eighty-three Kaltenborn was still writing a weekly column and preparing numerous radio, record, film and television recordings. A steady demand for his services as a public speaker continued. In addition, he was active as a director of the Broadcasters' Foundation and served as a member of the Advisory Board of Facts on File in the field of news analysis. Still driven by the urge to see new places and things, he continued to travel widely, sometimes on world tours, sometimes to countries freshly prominent in the news, always carrying his little notebooks to record his impressions. During 1960-61 he served on special New York World's Fair Committees to present formal invitations to European and North African Governments to participate in the 1964-65 Fair.

Anxious to preserve the record of the career of this illustrious native son, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Madison obtained from Mr. Kaltenborn in 1955 the gift of his rich collection of papers and memorabilia. Dozens of his little notebooks, thousands of the letters of radio listeners, scripts of broadcasts through more than three decades, correspondence with professional associates, disc recordings of the familiar voice, will be preserved for all time in a magnificent collection of correspondence, scripts, notebooks, scrapbooks, recordings, tapes, pictures, certificates, and various other types of records and memorabilia. Research studies based on the Kaltenborn Collection are already under way.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE H. V. KALTENBORN COLLECTION

## INTRODUCTION

The Kaltenborn papers are as broad in scope as were the famed commentator's experiences. They hold promise of contributing in numerous ways to an understanding of twentieth century life. Historians of the period will find in the scripts a day-by-day record of events in a crucial era of world history and a contemporary appraisal of those events by an acute and articulate observer. In the notebooks they will find records of interviews with leaders in four continents, together with critical analyses of those leaders and their milieu.

Fully as important as the reports on the current scene is the public reaction to the broadcasts. That Mr. Kaltenborn's unseen audience was immense is evident: hundreds of writers informed him they had listened to his news reports for years; as late as 1952 a single broadcast brought more than twelve thousand requests for copies of his talk. The social and political impact of this interpreter of world events on his hearers is incalculable; through a study of the "fan mail" we can gauge some measure of that audience reaction. This bulky collection of letters is in itself a faithful mirror of twentieth century America. Representatives of all levels of human society from high government officials, college presidents, clergy, business and labor leaders to, literally, the man in the street, appear in the pages. Their letters range from appeals to discuss and clarify topics to threats of reprisal unless the program is dropped; their emotions, from blind adulation to unrestrained rage and threats of violence. Rarely is an opportunity afforded to study public opinion and social reactions of so broad a cross section of humanity.

Inevitably, the man behind the microphone appears throughout the papers: his outlook on life, his social and political views, his wide range of information, his untiring energy, his insistence on his right to independent expression. Successive stages of revision of his scripts and of manuscripts of his books show his methods of writing; carbons of his replies to "fans" reveal his warm sympathy with their attitudes

even while he refused to avoid controversial subjects; the recordings and the reactions of listeners trace his mastery of the art of oral expression.

If any one value in the collection were to be singled out, it should perhaps be the broad coverage of the story of radio broadcasting, from its uncertain beginnings until the rise of television. Numberless aspects of the subject are illustrated in these papers: early technical troubles that plagued engineers, sponsors, speakers, and listeners; interrelationship of networks, sponsors, and commentators; the relationship of radio with journalism, advertising, the theatre, television, and other communications media; the choice of subject matter; the development of the role of commentator; radio and the public at various stages. Interesting data is provided on speech and broadcasting experiments: what irritated listeners, what pleased them, the evolution of the Kaltenborn style. Comments on the broadcaster's pronunciation and manner of speech can be followed up by use of the disc recordings.

These are only a few suggestions of the values researchers will find in the various types of records. The collection is unique in many respects. It documents the era of the unquestioned ascendancy of the United States as a world power. It covers the entire period of the rise and temporary decline of radio. It is the personal collection of the acknowledged leader in the field of news broadcasting. It presents a day-by-day picture of public reaction to rapidly changing situations. It is remarkably complete in its coverage. It has been organized, catalogued, and made available for the use of the public. Outstanding in its own right, the collection takes on even greater value in being the nucleus of records of other American leaders in the field of mass communications—records now deposited with the Mass Communications History Center.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS**

### **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1902-1961. 145 BOXES.**

Letters and copies of letters to and from Kaltenborn; correspondence is arranged chronologically and includes the following material:

**Fan Mail.** Letters, postcards and telegrams received by Kaltenborn primarily after 1922, in response to events of topical interest which he discussed on radio, television, the speaker's platform, and in newspapers, magazines, and books. The letters are from people of all economic groups, age levels, educational backgrounds, and political

affiliations. The correspondence prior to 1927 reveals Kaltenborn's varied efforts to gain and hold an audience during the early days of radio. Listeners respond to his offers of prizes, participate in his "question and answer" current events contests, and reply to his inquiries concerning the distance and quality of the radio reception.

Between 1930 and 1940, a constantly widening audience becomes more critical of the broadcasts as writers request discussion of specific topics, comment on Kaltenborn's remarks, and express quite fully their personal opinions and solutions to political, economic, and social conditions within and without the United States. Prohibition and the eighteenth amendment, the Scottsboro case, the presidential elections of 1932 and 1936 are among the domestic issues discussed by his radio listeners. From September 1 to October 10, 1938, more than 1,700 messages containing reactions to the Munich Crisis are addressed to Kaltenborn. Some 10,000 others are addressed to the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Correspondence of the war years represents an articulate America speaking candidly and with conviction about a variety of subjects—conscription, status of aliens, the Willkie-Roosevelt contest of 1940 and, most frequently, foreign relations. During 1942, Kaltenborn's views on the attitude of labor toward the war effort engages the attention of the writers more than any other one subject, although much political and war sentiment is intermixed with vehement comments for or against labor. Correspondence for 1943–1946 continues in much the same tenor as during the earlier war years, covering innumerable subjects and reflecting public reactions to World War II as well as the importance of radio communication in people's lives.

Letters in the post-war years covering the period from 1947 to 1961 reveal increasing personal reactions to public figures such as Dean Acheson, Senator McCarthy, General MacArthur, and President Eisenhower. Other letters express dissatisfaction with local situations. Many listeners write as though to a personal friend seeking advice on their problems; others ask for Kaltenborn's opinion on topics for local forums and civic groups. Throughout the collection of fan mail there are many thank-you notes and numerous requests for Kaltenborn's autograph and copies of his broadcasts.

**Family and Personal Correspondence.** Letters, postcards and greeting cards received from or addressed to relatives and friends. The material includes a number of letters and postcards from relatives and acquaintances in Germany. This correspondence, much of it

written in German, is frequently concerned with the attempt of the writer to come to the United States and with arrangements made by Kaltenborn to forward CARE packages to Germany. There are many cards and messages congratulating Kaltenborn for awards and honors he received, recognizing broadcasting anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions.

**Miscellaneous Correspondence.** Letters pertaining primarily to Kaltenborn's arrangements for lectures, public appearances, publishing, and travel. There is also material concerning his role in civic activities, such as his visits to foreign countries to invite their participation in the New York World's Fair of 1964-1965. Correspondence relating to Harvard matters and Kaltenborn's activities as President of the Harvard Club of Long Island are included. Other letters reveal his interest in philanthropic organizations, among them the American Foundation for the Blind and the Carl Schurz Foundation.

#### **AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION, 1883-1959. 2 BOXES.**

Approximately 1,000 letters received from nearly 500 well-known correspondents representing varied fields: diplomatic, literary, radio and television, theater, government, and sports. Most of the correspondence is dated between 1934 and 1955 and includes letters from three United States Presidents; seventy-one from Herbert Hoover, several from Harry Truman, and two from Dwight Eisenhower. The majority of the letters are thank-you notes for a book or dinner invitation although there are series of letters from such notables as Norman Angell, Chester Bowles, Fannie Hurst, Fiorello La Guardia, Hendrik van Loon, Lowell Thomas, and Henry A. Wallace. Among other letters in the collection are those of Dean Acheson, Alben W. Barkley, Bernard Baruch, Ernest Bevin, James F. Byrnes, Katharine Cornell, Elmer Davis, Thomas E. Dewey, James Forrestal, Cordell Hull, Lyndon B. Johnson, Alice Marble, Frances Perkins, Upton Sinclair, and Wendell Willkie.

#### **BUSINESS PAPERS, 1932-1958. 4 BOXES.**

Correspondence, contracts, financial statements and other business records. These papers, arranged by subject, describe the most significant of Kaltenborn's business relationships with networks, sponsors, advertising agencies, and publishers.

Correspondence with the Columbia Broadcasting System (1932-1940) and with the National Broadcasting Company (1940-1958) re-



lates primarily to sponsorship by local stations, program arrangements and publicity, special appearances, and salary.

Materials pertaining to Kaltenborn's relations with sponsors and advertising agency comprise a large segment of the business papers. There is correspondence with General Mills, Inc. (1938-1939) dealing with its sponsorship of Kaltenborn's program and problems encountered. Letters with the Pure Oil Company (1939-1953) and with the Leo Burnett advertising agency concern difficulties and problems regarding the broadcasts as well as matters pertaining to salary, vacations, and contracts. The business papers also contain one group of letters from labor union representatives, many of them addressed directly to the Pure Oil Company, which pertain to Kaltenborn's comments and attitudes toward labor issues, particularly in wartime.

Miscellaneous business records include financial negotiations with publishers and individual contracts for special projects.\*

### **PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1940-1961. 3 BOXES.**

**Association of Radio and Television News Analysts (ARTNA).** Letters, minutes, reports, financial statements, and other organizational documents pertaining to ARTNA. Established by Kaltenborn in 1942 to protect the professional standards and editorial independence of radio commentators, the organization was then known as the Association of Radio News Analysts (ARNA). It assumed its present name in 1957 when membership privileges were extended to television commentators.

As founder and three times president of the Association, Kaltenborn played an important role in its early history. His papers relating to ARNA begin in 1940 when he first expressed to a fellow broadcaster the need to draw up a code of ethics for radio commentators. They extend to 1960. Most of the material pertains to the years 1942 to 1947 and contains detailed information about the purpose, organization and growth of ARNA. A few letters in the early 1950's also refer to the origin of the Association.

The code of ethics outlined by ARNA for radio analysts required accuracy, good taste, avoidance of sensationalism, and the separation of commercial announcements from news analysis. It forbade its members to voice commercials in connection with their news or news analysis programs. Material describing the adoption of this code is

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\* Researchers desiring to use the business papers must have the recommendation of the Director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the permission of H. V. Kaltenborn during his lifetime.

included in the papers. The Association has also examined many problems affecting the work of news commentators, particularly radio censorship. Much of the correspondence in the collection deals with a censorship controversy in 1943 between the Columbia Broadcasting System and members of ARNA. It includes letters from H. V. Kaltenborn, Paul White, John Vandercook, Cecil Brown, George Fielding Eliot, and others concerned in the case. Material in 1947 pertains to ARNA's position on the "Mayflower Decision" by the Federal Communications Commission affecting the right of radio stations to editorialize on the air. Other papers in the collection include biographical sketches of ARNA members as well as information bulletins and memoranda sent to the membership.

**Broadcast Pioneers.** Letters, minutes, organizational documents, news releases, and publications concerning Broadcast Pioneers. This organization, originally named The Twenty Year Club, was founded on April 4, 1942 by Kaltenborn on the twentieth anniversary of his first broadcast. Designed initially as an informal group whose members had spent two decades in radio broadcasting, the Club assumed a permanent form in 1947 as Radio Pioneers with a constitution, by-laws, and officers. In 1957 the organization changed its name to Broadcast Pioneers to describe more accurately its interest in all communications activities.

Kaltenborn's papers cover the years 1942-1961. The major part deals with the period from 1947 to 1952 when the members of Radio Pioneers were formulating plans and programs to implement their express purpose of exchanging information and collecting historical data about the radio industry. The papers contain copies of the group's constitution and by-laws, minutes of Executive Committee meetings, and correspondence discussing the possibility of establishing a Radio Pioneers Hall of Fame. There is also material (1960-1961) concerning the Broadcasters' Foundation, established by the New York Pioneers to assist needy members of the broadcasting industry.

Earlier material includes typed copies of news releases concerning the formation of the Twenty Year Club and announcing publication of several editions of the *Twenty Year Club Book* which was compiled by Kaltenborn and contained biographical sketches of members of the Club.

**The Kaltenborn Foundation.** Letters to and from H. V. Kaltenborn about the Foundation, formal applications to the Kaltenborn Foundation, progress reports of Kaltenborn Fellows. The Foundation was

established by Kaltenborn in 1943 to assist young men and women working or planning to work as reporters or editors in the press or on the air, here or abroad. It has awarded grants in the fields of press, radio and television. Progress reports (1949-1955) and letters (1949-1960) between the Kaltenborn Fellows and Kaltenborn reveal the direct and personal interest which he took in each award and in the progress of the Fellow's career.

Grouped with the Foundation papers is correspondence (1943-1960) concerning the H. V. Kaltenborn Radio Scholarship awarded annually to a Harvard College freshman particularly interested in news and news analysis in the press or on the air.

**Overseas Press Club.** Letters, minutes, reports, organizational records pertaining to the Correspondents' Fund of the Overseas Press Club. As a founder, director and trustee, Kaltenborn was instrumental in establishing the Correspondents' Fund which provides financial assistance to needy members of the Overseas Press Club. He was also the first president of the Fund and served in this post from 1942 to 1947.

The papers (1942-1959) contain minutes of the organizational meetings of the Correspondents' Fund, Inc. and scattered minutes and reports of the annual meetings held by the trustees. The correspondence, dated mainly between 1942 and 1947, describes efforts to raise money for the Fund and includes personal appeals made by Kaltenborn. Later material consists of notices and reports to the OPC members regarding the Memorial Building Project Campaign undertaken by the Correspondents' Fund.

**American Civil Liberties Union.** Letters, minutes, memoranda to members of the Radio-Television Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union; news releases distributed by the Committee. Kaltenborn, a member of this committee, has maintained a continuing interest in its work.

Material in his files (1943-1960) describes the Committee's position in matters concerning equal time for political candidates; the right of the Federal Communications Commission to oversee station programming; censorship; the "Mayflower Decision" and the right of radio stations to editorialize on the air; the reallocation of the radio frequency spectrum. The records principally involve the years from 1957-1961.

## **SCRIPTS, 1927–1961. 47 BOXES.**

**Radio Scripts.** Handwritten, typed, and mimeographed copies of Kaltenborn's news broadcasts, special reports, and program series. Forty-four boxes of radio scripts cover chiefly the period of his affiliation with the Columbia Broadcasting System (1929–1940) and the National Broadcasting Company (1940–1959). During most of his thirty years of network association, Kaltenborn had a regularly scheduled news program, varying from one to five times a week. Although independent of any contractual agreement after 1953, he continued to report on unusual news events and to appear on special programs.

Beginning with 1935, the radio scripts comprise a virtually complete record of his prepared broadcasts. The majority of his early radio lectures were delivered extemporaneously by Kaltenborn. Many of the scripts in the collection are annotated and reveal Kaltenborn's methods of writing and revising his materials.

Special series which form a part of the script collection include his broadcasts entitled "Kaltenborn Edits the News," 1935–1937; "Crisis: the CBS Broadcasts of the Czechoslovakian Crisis," September, 1938; "Threescore and Five," a documentary series on problems of the aged, narrated by Kaltenborn, 1956; and "Health Magazine of the Air," 1958–1959. The collection also contains scripts (1960–1961) of his taped broadcasts for the Imperial Press Club, and texts of his "Opinioncasts" (1960–1961), prepared for Broadcast Editorial Reports, a service designed to provide radio stations with editorial comments by well-known analysts.

**Television Scripts.** Typed scripts and note cards of Kaltenborn's television appearances. The material, dated from 1951 to 1959, pertains primarily to his television series, "It Seems Like Yesterday" (1953–1954), a sponsored program on which Kaltenborn, with the use of films and the frequent appearance of guests, reviewed his personal knowledge and reminiscences of memorable incidents of the recent past. Subjects and events recalled were often scheduled in response to requests from the television audience. The content and format of the series provided much of the raw material for his book of the same title, published in 1956.

Scripts and notes used by Kaltenborn for his coverage of the 1956 presidential conventions and the 1958 election are included in the television material. There are also scripts for several miscellaneous television programs.

**Film Scripts.** Typescripts of newsreel and special feature films in which Kaltenborn appeared. The scripts cover the years 1939–1961. Most of them relate to the newsreel motion picture, “Kaltenborn Edits the News,” a weekly question and answer feature, distributed by Telenews in 1942–1943. There is one script for the science fiction film, “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” produced by Twentieth Century Fox in 1951, in which Kaltenborn assumed his own role as a broadcaster, simulating an important news announcement. Scripts for 1961 films include Kaltenborn’s narration of biographies of Alfred E. Smith and Charles Lindbergh, and a report on the progress of the 1964–1965 New York World’s Fair.

**MANUSCRIPTS, 1897–1961. 6 BOXES.**

**Manuscripts of Books.** Manuscripts of the following books written by Kaltenborn:

*Europe Now, A First-Hand Report.* In addition to two typescript drafts annotated by Kaltenborn, there is a third typescript which was submitted to the War Department Bureau of Public Relations for required wartime censorship. It contains corrections by the government bureau as well as additional notes by the author.

*It Seems Like Yesterday.* Copies of this manuscript include one revised typescript draft with the author’s handwritten annotations and one printer’s copy.

*Fifty Fabulous Years.* Material pertaining to this book includes a transcript of the book as originally dictated by Kaltenborn with annotations, a second revised typescript with many handwritten notations by the author, and a third typescript copy in final form.

**Lectures and Addresses.** Typed and mimeographed copies of lectures and addresses delivered by Kaltenborn. The speeches, dated from 1916 to 1961, relate mainly to world affairs and to the increasingly important role of radio.

**Articles.** Handwritten and typed copies of articles written by Kaltenborn for magazines and encyclopaedias. The articles (1917–1961) cover a variety of subjects: foreign affairs, domestic politics, radio censorship, prominent personalities, personal experiences and interests.

**Press Columns.** Handwritten and typescript copies of columns written by Kaltenborn for newspaper publication. Material, dated from 1897 to 1902, includes thirty-nine articles written for the Merrill, Wisconsin *Advocate*. The columns describe army life as experienced by

Kaltenborn during the Spanish-American War and relate his observations as he traveled through Europe and within the United States following his discharge from the Army (1900–1902).

There are also copies of Kaltenborn's regular weekly column, begun in 1953 and distributed by the General Features Syndicate to newspapers across the nation. Each column consists of 800–900 words in which Kaltenborn analyzes a dominant topic of the week with regard to probable developments.

#### **NOTEBOOKS AND RESEARCH NOTES, 1926–1961. 83 NOTEBOOKS AND 1 BOX.**

**Notebooks.** Volumes kept by Kaltenborn while traveling within the United States and throughout the world. The notebooks record his observations on the general scene in numerous cities and countries, his comments on political, economic, and social conditions, and his notes of interviews with statesmen, public officials, and other dignitaries.

Notes of his travel within the United States refer mainly to fourteen trips to Washington, D. C. spanning the period from 1930 to 1951. They contain Kaltenborn's personal comments as well as interview notes of meetings with such well-known personalities as Dean Acheson, Warren Austin, Dwight Eisenhower, John Nance Garner, James W. Good, Sidney Hillman, Herbert Hoover, Harry Hopkins, Cordell Hull, Harold Ickes, William Mitchell, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Henry Stimson, Robert Taft, Harry Truman, Arthur Vandenberg, Robert Wagner, Henry Wallace, and Lyman H. Wilbur. One volume describes his coverage of the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945 and includes interview notes or comments concerning Georges Bidault, John Foster Dulles, Anthony Eden, Vyacheslav Molotov, Harry Truman, and Arthur Vandenberg.

The volumes pertaining to Kaltenborn's trips to numerous countries throughout the world record his impressions and interview notes with many world leaders, among them the Emperor of Japan, Mahatma Gandhi, Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Pope Pius XII.

The following summary of notebook titles lists the foreign visits by Kaltenborn and the dates of the trips:

- 1926—Germany, Geneva, Russia, Poland
- 1927—Japan, China, The Philippines
- 1929—Germany, Geneva, Russia, Denmark
- 1931—Germany, Italy
- 1933—Germany, England, Poland



1934—Russia  
 1935—Germany, England, Italy  
 1936—Spain, South America  
 1937—Germany, Spain, South America  
 1939—Europe  
 1942—England  
 1943—Canada, Pacific Islands, North Africa, Panama Canal Zone, Mexico, South America  
 1944—England, France, Belgium, Italy, Cuba, various war fronts  
 1945—Europe  
 1946—Germany, Denmark, Sweden  
 1947—World Tour (London, Paris, Rome, Athens, India, Far East)  
 1948—Europe (Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, Paris, London)  
 1949—England, South America, Spain, Holland, South Africa  
 1950—Europe (Yugoslavia, Austria, England, Berlin)  
 1951—World Tour (Munich, Israel, Iran, Singapore, Indonesia, Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, Hawaii)  
 1952—Canada  
 1953—Germany, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland  
 1957—Portugal, North Africa  
 1958—Canada, Egypt  
 1959—Canada, Egypt, Sudan  
 1960—Europe, Canada, British West Indies  
 1961—Africa, Canada, France, West Germany, Berlin

The collection also includes nine personal pocket appointment books for the years 1944–1947, 1949, 1953, 1954, 1958, and 1959. These volumes contain a very brief record of Kaltenborn's business appointments, social engagements, and other personal memos for these years.

**Research Notes.** Handwritten and typed note cards and sheets, dated from 1920 to 1961. The notes most frequently refer to world affairs, current event topics, and personalities in the news. Some record interviews, others serve as memoranda or contain reference information for Kaltenborn's use.

The notebooks, additional research notes, correspondence, accounts of interviews, and other primary source materials comprise an active reference file, in current use by Kaltenborn in New York.

**PUBLICITY RELEASES, ARTICLES ABOUT H. V. KALTENBORN, 1898–1960. 1 BOX.**

News releases and printed material containing biographical information about Kaltenborn. Material, dated primarily from 1930 to

1956, was distributed by the Pure Oil Company to its dealers and by the networks to attract sponsors and additional stations. Promotional literature pertaining to Kaltenborn's lectures and local guest appearances is also included.

#### **SCRAPBOOKS, 1914–1961. 35 VOLUMES.**

Scrapbooks concerning Kaltenborn's life and career. The volumes consist mainly of newspaper and magazine clippings written by or about Kaltenborn. Clippings for the early years frequently report the essence of Kaltenborn's radio talks and reveal the extensive coverage which the press gave to his opinions and predictions concerning national and international situations. Later clippings most often publicize his travel, his coverage of newsmaking events, his numerous appearances as guest speaker and lecturer, special activities in which he was engaged, and other highlights of his career. Some of the scrapbooks contain letters and reviews pertaining to books written by Kaltenborn.

#### **MEMORABILIA, 1898–1961.**

Items recording memorable incidents in Kaltenborn's life or representing tributes in recognition of his achievements. The memorabilia comprise two main categories:

**Photographs, Portraits, Cartoons.** News photographs, portraits and drawings of Kaltenborn including original caricatures and reproductions of cartoons referring to Kaltenborn; also photographs and miscellaneous snapshots given or sent to Kaltenborn. In addition to studio portraits and pictures of his home and family life, the photographs cover many aspects of his career: Kaltenborn before the microphone, engaged in panel discussions, interviewing American statesmen and World War II generals, inspecting military equipment, traveling in war areas in Spain, Germany, the South Pacific, Korea.

Photographs of world-famous personalities, some of which are autographed, include King Alfonso XIII, Ernest Bevin, Francisco Franco, Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Pope Pius XII. There are also news photographs of a number of prominent radio news analysts.

Portraits and drawings by Jean Appleton, Winold Reiss, Ralph Steiner, Grant Wood, and cartoons by Helen Hopinson, Derso and Kelen, Ted Key, and Hendrik van Loon are a part of the collection.

A separate series of snapshots and photographs sent to Kaltenborn from time to time by his listeners consists mainly of miscellaneous

scenes illustrating wartime conditions within the United States, such as shortage of manpower on farms, rubber salvage operations, and military construction. The photograph collection includes one motion picture, "Behind Your Radio Dial," in which Kaltenborn appears. The film, produced in 1948 by RKO-Pathe, describes the radio facilities of the National Broadcasting Company in New York.

**Certificates, Awards, Degrees.** Citations, letters of appreciation, plaques, medals, and scholastic honors received by Kaltenborn. Represented in the collection are certificates of merit from journalism schools and radio groups, among them the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University (1938); the Institute for Education by Radio of Ohio State University (1939); the Women's National Radio Committee (1939); the Wisconsin Broadcasters' Association (1959).

Achievement awards include the 1937 Journalism Award from the Newspaper-Radio-Newsreel-News Photographers' Association; the DuPont Radio Commentator Award (1944); eight citations from radio and news publications naming Kaltenborn as best commentator of the year for the period 1938 to 1946; and the Chauncey Depew medal of the New York Sons of the American Revolution (1961).

In addition to several civic leadership awards, there are citations from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Treasury Department commending Kaltenborn for his special efforts on behalf of national defense and his outstanding service as an accredited war correspondent. Scholastic honors include his notification of election to Phi Beta Kappa (1909); honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin (1939), Hamilton College (1939), Miami University (1940). There is also a service award from Harvard University (1959).

## **SOUND RECORDINGS, 1933-1961. 528 DISC RECORDINGS AND 2 TAPES.**

**News Broadcasts.** 348 discs of Kaltenborn's regularly scheduled news program, with the majority of them dated from 1940 to 1948.

**Special Programs.** 178 recordings of special events, including speeches and commentaries by Kaltenborn; interviews, panel discussions, documentary and variety programs in which he participated; and special tributes to Kaltenborn. Recorded material, dating from 1933, covers a variety of subjects, among them: Kaltenborn conducting "man in the street" interviews about the London Economic Conference; part of a speech by Hitler in 1939 with translation and commentary by Kaltenborn; his analysis of "Europe's Reaction to Hitler

Peace Address" (1939); speeches given by Kaltenborn in San Francisco Town Hall in 1940 and again in San Francisco at the dedication of an NBC radio building in 1941; a panel discussion concerning the start of the Russian-German War with Kaltenborn, John Gunther, and Eugene Lyons (1941); Kaltenborn's broadcast to the 5th Army in Italy (1944); a special political convention broadcast by Kaltenborn in 1952, "Open Letter to Stevenson and Eisenhower."

Recordings of interviews with and by Kaltenborn, both here and abroad, span the years 1938 to 1957. A number of the variety programs contain parodies of Kaltenborn. Tributes to Kaltenborn include recordings of award programs, dinners marking the fourth and tenth year in which his radio commentaries were sponsored by the Pure Oil Company, and several special programs in 1952 honoring Kaltenborn on his thirtieth broadcasting anniversary.

Two volumes of Franklin D. Roosevelt speeches, ". . . rendezvous with destiny," and three volumes of "I can hear it now . . .," narrated by Edward R. Murrow, are a part of the collection donated by Kaltenborn as is a special two-disc recording called "Witness"—highlights from Congressional Hearings narrated by Kaltenborn.

## BOOKS BY H. V. KALTENBORN

**WE LOOK AT THE WORLD.** (NEW YORK: RAE D. HENCKLE CO., 1930. 272 PP.)

Kaltenborn's analysis of international affairs in 1930 and America's relation to world problems. In addition to his observations on America's national aims and international attitudes, he discusses the reactions of the rest of the world to the United States. His commentary includes Europe, the Near East, Egypt, Indo-China, the Orient, and South America. He points out danger spots in which war might be generated, and also appraises the arms situation, the work of the League of Nations, and the London Naval Conference of 1930.

**KALTENBORN EDITS THE NEWS.** (NEW YORK: MODERN AGE BOOKS, INC. 1937. 183 PP.)

A summary and interpretation of the background behind the headline news of 1937. Kaltenborn examines in some detail prevailing international problems including the Spanish Civil War, the power of Mussolini and Hitler, conditions in Russia, the Far Eastern conflict, the Central European danger zone, difficulties in France, and the role of Great Britain amidst increasing European tension. On the national scene, Kaltenborn discusses labor unrest and other problems encountered by the New Deal administration.

**I BROADCAST THE CRISIS.** (NEW YORK: RANDOM HOUSE. 1938. 360 PP.)

A verbatim record of Kaltenborn's coverage of the Czechoslovakian crisis of September, 1938, during which he made one hundred and two broadcasts in twenty days. The book includes the important news bulletins and broadcasts from European capitals, followed by Kaltenborn's interpretations, delivered extemporaneously as new developments occurred. The broadcasts are supplemented by an appendix which contains texts of the important speeches and official documents relating to the crisis. A preface, written by Kaltenborn, describes the mechanical problems faced by the Columbia network in coordinating all radio facilities here and abroad in order to present a complete picture of the crisis.

**KALTENBORN EDITS THE WAR NEWS.** (NEW YORK: E. P. DUTTON & Co. 1942. 96 pp.)

A compilation of approximately one hundred questions received and answered by Kaltenborn. The questions cover a wide range, from inquiries about strategical phases of World War II to the effects of anti-strike legislation, from the possibilities of a postwar depression to partisan Washington politics and its harmful effects on the all-out war effort.

**EUROPE NOW, A FIRST-HAND REPORT.** (NEW YORK: DIDIER PUBLISHING Co. 1945. 187 pp.)

An account of Kaltenborn's impressions gained during a five-week tour through Western Europe at the close of 1944. In addition to his descriptions of the active fronts in Italy and the French-Belgian-German combat areas, Kaltenborn reports on other aspects of the war—living conditions in reconquered Europe, prices and supplies of commodities, recreational activities for soldiers in Paris and Rome, reactions of German prisoners, transportation conditions, operation of the Air Transport Command, and postwar problems facing Europe. Many of the impressions resulted from interviews with leaders of the Allied military forces and high officials of reconquered countries.

**FIFTY FABULOUS YEARS.** (NEW YORK: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. 1950. 312 pp.)

A personal narrative which combines the story of Kaltenborn's life and experiences with his interpretation of the major events of the first half of the twentieth century. Touching briefly upon his Wisconsin youth, the autobiography begins with his volunteer service in the Spanish-American War, recounts his role in the development of radio broadcasting, his career as a pioneer news analyst, and continues to 1950. Kaltenborn presents intimate glimpses, based on personal contact, of the men who helped shape events during this period.

**IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY.** (NEW YORK: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. 1956. 221 pp.)

A review of great moments and events in world history, spanning a sixty year period from William Jennings Bryan's first presidential campaign (1896) to the desegregation dispute (1954). Based on a series of telecasts delivered by Kaltenborn under the same title, the book recalls, with text and pictures, sixty-two major events which the



author personally witnessed or reported and analyzed. Among the events reviewed: four wars; the rise and fall of Mussolini, Hitler, and the League of Nations; the birth and growth of the United Nations; the conquest of the air; and the splitting of the atom.

### ARTICLES BY H. V. KALTENBORN

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**"America's Place in the World"**

Century, Vol. 111, pp. 704-12, April, 1926

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Century, Vol. 112, pp. 666-76, Oct., 1926

**"Radio Where the Red Flag Flies"**

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